

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

8 September, 1975

FROM: [REDACTED] STATOTHR

SUBJECT: Meeting, August 20, with Members of the State Committee for Science and Technology of the USSR

STATOTHR The meeting which [REDACTED] and I had with members of the State Committee had two objectives. One was to go over US plans for case studies and papers and in general to discuss the US ideas for case studies. Indirectly, this would hopefully have some bearing on the USSR programs. Secondly, we wished to ask some specific questions about State Committee management of institutes such as the Kurchatov which report to the State Committee. Present on the Soviet side were three people: V.P. Axilenko of the Foreign Relations Department of the State Committee, a young person whose English was good and who did much of the talking. Second was Nikita L. Dvoretz, Chief of Secretariat, Soviet Part, US-USSR Joint Commission on Science and Technology. The third person was Alexander Metalnikov, Senior Expert of the International Dept. of the State Committee. The latter was almost silent.

STATOTHR [REDACTED] led off by going over the plans for US case studies and papers. As part of this, he left the Russian translation of the checklist items which had been forwarded to him by [REDACTED] STATOTHR

STATOTHR [REDACTED] There was generalized discussion of case studies indicating that the Soviet understood the situation well and were working. With respect to two specifics, they noted that the time of the October Commission meeting would be a very good time for further discussion and hoped that some follow-on activities could happen then.

We then turned to somewhat more general discussions of decision making on institutes and budgets within the State Committee. The USSR group noted that their planning on programs links closely to the five-year plan within which requests are made to the State Planning Commission and as a consequence of which ultimately financial allotments are made to the State Committee. Some of the funds are left unallotted (as I remember, something like 10% to 15%) which permits the State Committee to accommodate new ideas and new programs as the State Committee decides on them.

In connection with some of this financial management it was noted that there is a powerful but little known group in the Academy Nauk which is the finance department. The suggestion was that if we were to understand better how the Academy institutes are managed it would be very helpful to visit this group. I con-

Science Policy

firmed the significance of this group by later conversation with one of the Academy staff. The person to see at the Academy Department of Finance is Lev Y. Gervitz; the person in charge of this Department is Academician Anatoly Logunov.

It was also noted that Scientific Councils are important in both the Academy and the State Commission and play a large role in making decisions about new directions, etc. For the State Commission, the scientific council has within it representatives of several Ministries. Hence, decisions usually have broad support from the relevant groups in science and technology. If a new program is favorably reviewed by the Science Council, it goes to the department for financing which normally can take care of it.

STATOTHR

██████████ asked what about resolution of difficulties between Gosplan and the State Committee. The response was that the Gosplan allocations were in relatively large units with the decision making at the State Committee level. Hence, within their available funds there was really no conflict between the State Committee and Gosplan.

When we turned to the specific question of how the State Committee managed institutes, and, even more specifically, how they managed the Kurchitov Institute which was one of the ones we had visited, we were told that the right people to see were not available. The specific name given to us who might be interviewed on another visit conceivably even in October, is Mr. Petrenko of the State Committee.

In the course of these discussions, Dvoretz mentioned that for improved communications we might be much better off using Telex. The address he gave us was:

The State Committee of the USSR Council of
Ministry for Science and Technology
11 Gorky Street
Moscow.

The Telex number was given as: 7241 MSK

Axilenko's calling card lists the same address and Telex number and in addition gives the following two Moscow telephone numbers: 229-2236; 229-2000.